

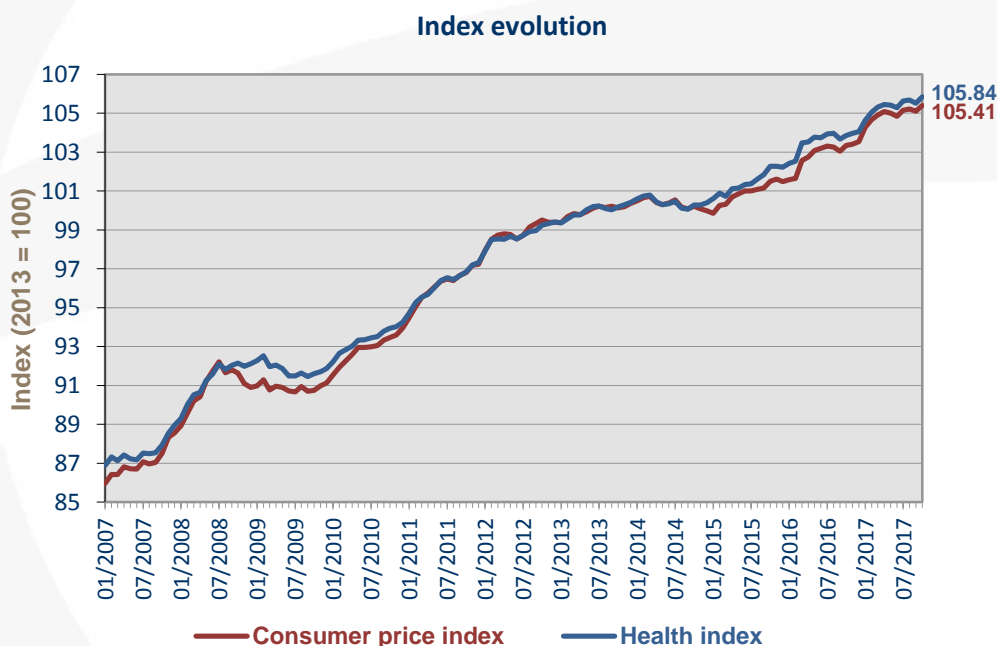
Inflation remains basically unchanged

Consumer price index of October 2017

- **Inflation** decreased from 2.01 % to 2.00 % in October.
- The **consumer price index** has increased by 0.30 points or 0.29 % this month.
- Inflation based on the **health index** has increased to 1.91 %, up from 1.77 %.
- The **smoothed health index** stood at 103.55 points in October.
- The main **upward pressure** in October came from fruit, electricity, holiday villages and campings, natural gas, recreational and sporting services and the purchase of vehicles. However, hotels, fish and shellfish, alcoholic beverages and maintenance products have had a **decreasing effect** on the index.

The consumer price index amounts to 105.41 points in October 2017. It has increased by 0.30 point over the month. Inflation has dropped from 2.01 % to 2.00 %. The health index has gained 0.33 point to 105.84 points. Inflation based on the health index has gone up from 1.77 % to 1.91 %. The main upward pressure this month came from fruit, electricity, holiday villages and campings, natural gas, recreational and sporting services and the purchase of vehicles. These increases were mostly offset by price decreases for hotels, fish and shellfish, alcoholic beverages and maintenance products.

The **consumer price index** has risen by 0.30 points or 0.29 % in October 2017 and is now running at 105.41 points, compared to 105.11 points in September 2017 (2013=100).



The **health index** in October has gone up by 0.33 points to 105.84 points, compared to 105.51 points in September. The **smoothed health index** stood at 103.55 points in October. The **central index** for public service and social benefits, set at 105.10 points, has not been exceeded. The last time the central index was exceeded was in May 2017.

The largest upward pressure in October came from fruit, electricity, holiday villages and campings, natural gas, recreational and sporting services and the purchase of vehicles. However, hotels, fish and shellfish, alcoholic beverages and maintenance products provided the largest downward pressure compared to last month. The most important trends this month are:

<u>Upward:</u>	<u>Effect:</u>	<u>Downward:</u>	<u>Effect:</u>
Fruit	+0.080 point	Fish and shellfish	-0,030 point
Electricity	+0.060 point	Alcoholic beverages	-0,020 point
Holiday villages and campings	+0.050 point	Hotels	-0,020 point
Natural gas	+0.040 point	Maintenance products	-0,020 point
Recreational and sporting services	+0.020 point		
Purchase of vehicles	+0.020 point		

Prices of **fruit** have increased on average by 6.4 %. **Electricity** became on average 1.3 % more expensive. Prices for **holiday villages and campings** have increased on average by 7.3 % in October. **Natural gas** has become 2.2 % more expensive in October. Prices of **recreational and sporting services** climbed by 1.8 %. The **purchase of vehicles** became on average 0.2 % more expensive in October.

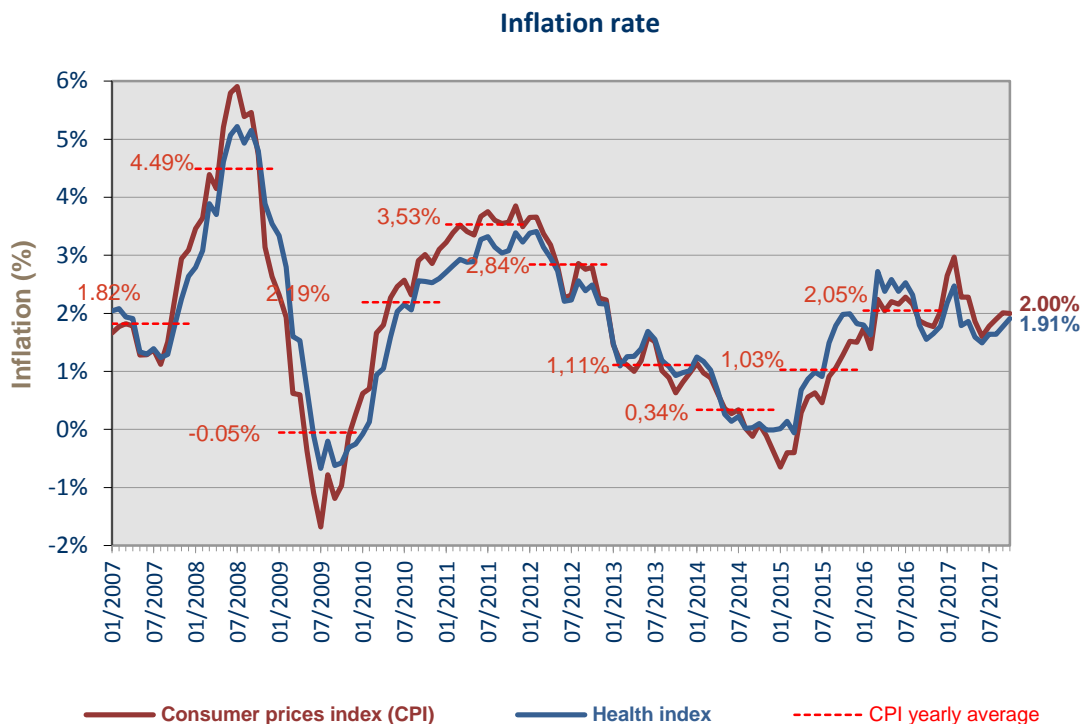
Fish and shellfish have become 2.4 % cheaper. Prices of **alcoholic beverages** have decreased on average by 1.0 % this month. **Hotels** have become on average 2.0 % less expensive in October. **Maintenance products** have been on average 2.8 % cheaper in this month.

Inflation is now running at 2.00 %, compared to 2.01 % in September and 1.90 % in August. **Inflation** based on the **health index** amounts to 1.91 % this month compared to 1.77 % in September and 1.64 % in August. **Inflation without energy** has gone slightly down to 1.52 % in October compared to 1.53 % last month and 1.44 % in August. **Core inflation**, which does not take into account price evolutions of energy products and unprocessed food, stood at 1.63 % in October, compared to 1.65 % in September and 1.54 % in August.

Food inflation is now running at 1.18 %, compared to 1.49 % last month and 1.39 % in August. Fresh fruit now costs 5.3 % less than in October 2016. Fresh vegetables are also cheaper: 3.1 % on an annual basis. Fish and shellfish are 6.1 % more expensive than a year ago. Oils and fats are 14.1 % more expensive than last year. Especially the price of butter is higher (inflation of 28.6 %). Non-alcoholic beverages now cost 2.0 % more than in October 2016. For alcoholic beverages, consumers now have to pay 0.4 % less than a year ago. Tobacco prices have gone up by 5.5 % compared to October last year. **Energy** inflation is now running at 6.24 %, compared to 6.32 % last month and 6.07 % in August. Electricity is now 4.5 % more expensive than a year ago. Natural gas is 5.7 % more expensive than in October 2016. Prices for domestic heating oil, calculated based on a smoothed 12-month moving average, have increased by 18.7 % in a year. Motor fuels are 5.1 % more expensive than last year. Inflation for **services** has

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increased to 2.24 % from 1.92 %. Inflation for **rents** remains unchanged compared to last month and stands at 1.06 %.



2013 = 100	July 2017	August 2017	September 2017	October 2017
Consumer price index	105.15	105.22	105.11	105.41
Inflation	1.78 %	1.90 %	2.01 %	2.00 %
Health index	105.63	105.68	105.51	105.84
Smoothed health index*	103.34	103.39	103.42	103.55

* defined in the law of 23 April 2015 on the promotion of employment (Belgian Official Journal of 27 April 2015)

Additional information

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Source

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Additional figures

Tables with detailed data can be found on:

http://statbel.fgov.be/en/statistics/figures/economy/consumer_price_index/

Consumer price index in open data format

Statistics Belgium now also offers the consumer price index in open data format.

The general file contains the general consumer price index from 1920 onward.

The second file contains an overview of the indices from 1998 onward for the twelve main groups according to the [COICOP classification](#).

Open Data

- [Consumer price index, general: from 1920 onward](#)
- [Consumer price index, per group: from 1998 onward](#)